

National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Headquarters
Washington, DC 20546-0001



July 5, 2007

Reply to Attn of: General Law Practice Group

TO: Distribution

FROM: Alternate Designated Agency Ethics Official

SUBJECT: Determination Regarding Attendance by NASA Employees at an Dawn Launch Pre-Launch Reception

On July 6, 2007, JPL, United Launch Alliance, and Orbital Sciences Corporation will co-host a pre-launch reception in anticipation of the Dawn ELV launch. The event will start at 6:00 p.m. and will be held on the Doubletree Hotel in Cocoa Beach, Florida. Approximately 500 people have been invited, including representatives from aerospace industry, Congress and other Federal agencies, state officials, and NASA. The industry co-sponsors will be providing food and beverages at a cost of approximately \$20 per person.

I find this event meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 C.F.R. §2635.204(g). I further determine that there is an Agency interest in having NASA personnel attend the event. The event will allow NASA employees to discuss the NASA Vision for Space Exploration and the DAWN mission with the other attendees. Accordingly, NASA employees whose duties do not substantially affect the industry co-sponsors may accept an invitation for free attendance at the reception.

NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect these co-sponsors, such as by way of procurement duties, should seek an individual determination pursuant to 5 C.F.R. §2635.204(g)(3)(i) regarding participation in this event from their local ethics counselor.


R. Andrew Falcon